

November 15, 2007

Ms. Victoria J. Rutson  
Chief, Section of Environmental Analysis  
Surface Transportation Board  
395 E Street, S.W.  
Washington, DC 20423-0001

Dear Ms. Rutson:

I am currently president of the Hamilton Estates Residents Association in Deer Park, which is in the Barrington, Illinois area. Our organization is concerned with the safety and quality of life of our residents. We depend heavily on three arterial roads that serve our community, and two of those, Ela Road and Cuba Road, have railroad crossings currently operated by the EJ&E Railway Co.

It has come to my attention that Canadian National Railway Company seeks to acquire the Elgin, Joliet, & Eastern Railway Co, which operates a rail line that runs through the Barrington area. I write to urge the Surface Transportation Board to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for this transaction. The transaction will have a significant impact on noise, safety and the movement of traffic, and only the rigorous review required by the EIS process will develop alternatives and mitigation procedures sufficient to limit that impact. This review should include impacts of the transaction further into the future than the three years Canadian National currently estimates.

If the Board does not require an EIS, we will not have the information necessary to prevent a severe degradation in the local environment. Moreover, the EIS should look further into the future than the three years for which CN has estimated traffic increases; such a shortsighted view does not take into account major changes expected in our region for future generations. The SEA should immediately begin developing a scope of study for a draft EIS that emphasizes the impact on noise, safety and traffic congestion. I look forward to further correspondence with SEA and the Board on the EIS process.

Sincerely,



Mary Glorch